

[3 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Communication, Government of India for operating FM Educational Channel in 40 centres across the country. Gyan Vani FM Channel will be operated in the four metro cities and 36 other stations and will cover a wide network of distance learners and hitherto unreached population of the country. To begin with, IGNOU has initiated action to commission GYAN VANI stations at Lucknow, Coimbatore and Vishakhapatnam by end of 2001.

Self-styled Universities

1458. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in "The Times of India" dated 5th June, 2001 under the caption "Self-Styled Universities are taking students for a ride";

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) the details of the self-styled Universities or Vishwavidyalayas functioning at present in the country, in contravention of the provisions of UGC Act and the reason therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to take legal action against fake Universities functioning in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC), a statutory body charged with the responsibility of promotion & maintenance of standards of university education and the Government are aware about the news-item captioned "Self-Styled Universities are taking students for a ride" which appeared in the "The Times of India" dated 5th June, 2001. At the beginning of each academic year, the University Grants Commission issues a Press release in all leading news papers informing the public regarding Fake Universities functioning unauthorisedly in the country. The last press release was issued on 1st June, 2001. A list of such fake Universities/Vishwavidyalayas

functioning in the country in contravention of the provisions of UGC Act is given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1443]

Court cases have already been instituted against many fake institutions like the Commercial University Ltd., Daryaganj, Delhi, the Bharatiya Siksha Parishad, U.P., Lucknow and the Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi/Jagatpuri, Delhi for their closure.

The Minister for Human Resource Development has also written to all the Chief Ministers of the States to keep a strict vigil over such educational institutions and prosecute the offenders under the provisions of UGC Act and other penal laws including the Indian Penal Code.

Free books in primary schools in Maharashtra

1459. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide free text books and note books in primary schools in Maharashtra, in order to encourage people below poverty line to send their children to schools, specially in Adivasi areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Government of Maharashtra, the State has a scheme for establishment of Book Bank in primary schools since the year 1976-77. According to this scheme free text books are provided to the students belonging to Scheduled Caste/Tribe, Vimukt Jati Nomadic Tribes (VJNT) and other deprived sections of the community. The scheme has been made applicable to the students studying in Class I to VII in the primary schools run by local bodies in the State. Under the scheme, sets of text books are supplied to the Book Banks in the schools. These text books are provided to the students on loan for one year who use and return these to the Head